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106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3578

To modify the annual reporting requirements of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2000

Mr. SUNUNU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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A BILL

To modify the annual reporting requirements of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Right To Know Act".

SEC. 2. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES.

Section 201(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively;

(2) by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "subparagraph (B)";

(3) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)";

(4) by redesignating the undesignated text following subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section) as paragraph (2);

(5) by moving the last sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) so that it follows the fifth sentence of paragraph (1) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this section);

(6)(A) by moving the text of the fifth sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) beginning with "be printed as a House document" and ending with "the report is made" so that it follows "shall" in the first sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section);

(B) by striking the remainder of the fifth sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section); and

(C) by inserting "and" after the text so moved;

(7) in the fourth sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section), by striking "Such report shall also include an" and inserting the following:

"(C) An";

(8) in the third sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section), by striking "Such report shall include an" and inserting the following:

"(B) An";

(9) in the first sentence of paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) by striking "(2) above" after "paragraph" and inserting "(1)(B)"; and

(B) by striking "shall include a statement" and inserting "shall include the following:

"(A) A statement";

(10) by inserting after subparagraph (C) (as redesignated by paragraph (7) of this section) the following:

"(D) A statement, in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars, present discounted value, and nominal dollars, of—

"(i) the aggregate amount of the unfunded long-term projected liability of the social secu-

rity system and any change in that amount from the preceding year; and

"(ii) the amount of deficit or surplus that the social security system will run in the last year of such long-term projection period, with any aggregate assets or liabilities held by the Trust Funds in that final projected year.

"(E) The economic model and relevant data used to make the financial projections required to be reported under this paragraph, including any changes in the model and data from the preceding year.

"(F) A conspicuous summary of the items required by clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (D), in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars.

"(G) An explanation that states in substance that the Trust Funds balances reflect resources authorized by Congress to pay future social security benefits, but do not consist of real economic assets that can be used in the future to fund benefits, and that such balances are claims against the United States Treasury that, when redeemed, must be financed through increased taxes, public borrowing, benefit reduction, or elimination of other Federal expenditures.".

SEC. 3. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENT.

Section 1143(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(C) by striking "and";

(2) in paragraph (2)(D) by striking the period and inserting "; and";

(3) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(E)(i) as determined by the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration—

"(I) a comparison of the annual social security tax inflows (including amounts appropriated under subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of this Act and section 121(e) of the Social Security Amendments of 1983 (26 U.S.C. 401 note)) to the amount paid in benefits annually; and

"(II) a statement whether the ratio described in subclause (I) will result in a cash flow deficit and what year any such deficit will commence, as well as the first year in which funds in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will cease to be sufficient to cover any such deficit and the percentage of

benefits due at that time that could be paid from the annual social security tax inflows (as that term is used in subclause (I));

"(ii) the explanation required by section 201(c)(2)(G); and

"(iii) an explanation, in simple and easily understood terms, of the average rate of return that a taxpayer can expect to receive on old-age insurance benefits as compared to the total amount of social security taxes a taxpayer expects to pay, including the inflation-adjusted average rate of return for workers born in every year beginning with 1900, set out in chart or graph form, with an explanatory caption or legend, as determined by the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration.".

SEC. 4. USE OF CONTINUOUS WORK HISTORY SAMPLE FOR STATISTICAL RESEARCH.

(a) DATA TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Social Security Administration shall make available to the public the Continuous Work History Sample (referred to in this section as the "CWHS") data administered by such Administration subject to the restrictions provided for in subsections (b) and (c).

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(b) LIMITATIONS ON RELEASE OF DATA.—The Office of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Administration shall make statistical samples of individual records from the CWHS available to a user if the user—

(1) agrees to make use of the data from the CWHS solely for the purpose of conducting statistical research activities;

(2) agrees in writing to such conditions as may be reasonably determined by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to be necessary to ensure that data from the CWHS is not made available in individually identifiable form; and

(3) fully reimburses the Office of Research and Statistics for the cost of supplying the data.

(c) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—To protect privacy, the Office of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Administration shall remove all identifiers which can link CWHS records to the identity of an individual respondent prior to the release of the data.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Continuous Work History Sample" means the statistical sample of individual administrative records held by the Social Security Administration; and

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1 (2) the term "user" means any individual or
2 legal entity, including an employee of the Federal
3 Government, who receives access to the Continuous
4 Work History Sample.

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